

## KEEPING IT CLEAN:

### WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT THE QUALITY OF OUR WATER

This is the fourth and last in a series of articles and photos on actions you can take to keep our streams, rivers and bays clean. In recent years sources of water pollution like industrial wastes from factories have been greatly reduced. Now, more than 60 percent of water pollution comes from things like cars leaking oil, fertilizers, and failing septic tanks. All of these sources add up to a big pollution problem. But each of us can do small things that help clean up our water too!

#### Car Washing

The question isn't whether or not you wash your car, it's just how and where you do it. Some soaps contain phosphates and other chemicals that harm fish and water quality. The soap, together with the dirt and oil washed from your car, can also flow into nearby storm drains which run directly into lakes, rivers or marine waters. The phosphates from the soap can cause excess algae to grow. Algae look bad, smell bad, and harm water quality. As algae decay, the process uses up oxygen in the water that fish need.

#### How can you help?

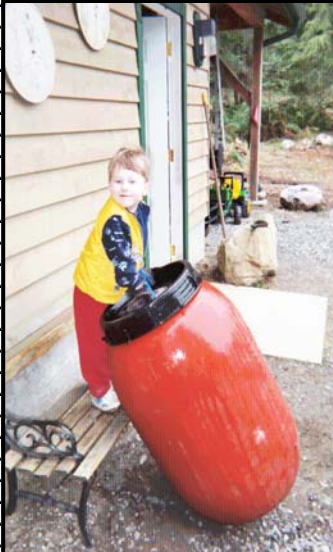
- ⇒ Use soap sparingly and pour your bucket of leftover soapy water on your lawn or flower bed or down the sink, not in the street.
- ⇒ Use a hose nozzle with a trigger to save water.
- ⇒ Wash your car on a grassy area or gravel so the ground can naturally filter soap or oil washed off your car.
- ⇒ Take your car to a commercial car wash, especially if you plan to clean the engine or the bottom of your car. Most car washes reuse wash water several times before sending it to the sewer system for treatment.



A cooperative venture between the Puget Sound Action Team, Department of Ecology, King County and the cities of Bellevue, Seattle, and Tacoma.

#### Rain Barrel Wrap-Up

Thank you to all the volunteers and water-conscience customers who helped make our rain barrel program a huge success. Roberta and David Loudon, Gene McCutchin, Stephanie and Glen Mitchell, Dan, Carolyn and Darren Peacock, Frank and Chris Ransom, Don Townsend, Alex Twarowski, and Jack, Myrlene and Jackie Young (our youngest volunteer at age 4, featured in the photo) all donated many hours of their time to help wash and assemble over 285 rain barrels. If you missed out on our rain barrel sale you can contact us at (360) 452-1912 ext. 109 for information on how to make your own rain barrel or where to buy them.



#### RIPARIAN RESTORATION

This spring the Clallam Conservation District worked with landowners to complete riparian buffer planting on over 45 acres of land along three miles of salmon streams. This riparian vegetation helps stabilize stream banks, filter pollutants, create shade that lowers water temperatures, and shade out some of the noxious weeds that clog streams. These accomplishments were realized by using an incredible program called the *Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program* (CREP). CREP compensates landowners for taking land out of production by providing annual rental payments, and paying for all the installation costs such as: fencing, livestock watering, livestock crossings, planting and maintenance of the trees and shrubs. Landowners who are interested in this voluntary program should contact the District at 452-1912 ext. 5 for more information or a no cost/obligation assessment.

## LONG-RANGE PLAN UPDATE

Following two years of data collection and special work sessions, the Clallam Conservation District Board of Supervisors has approved a draft five-year plan for natural resource conservation. We are seeking input on this plan from our many conservation partners, not the least of which are the land users of the District.

You can view the draft plan on our website: [clallam.scc.wa.gov/](http://clallam.scc.wa.gov/) or stop by our office in the USDA Service Center located at 111 East Third Street, Suite 2A in Port Angeles to obtain a copy. A public hearing on the plan is scheduled for late August.

The Conservation Districts Law (RCW 89.08) stipulates that conservation districts "... prepare and keep current a comprehensive long-range program recommending the conservation of all the renewable natural resources of the district." The long-range program is required to include the following:

- an inventory of all renewable natural resources in the district
- a compilation of current resource needs
- projections of future resource requirements
- priorities for various resource activities
- projected timetables
- descriptions of available alternatives
- provisions for coordination with other resource programs

The law also states that the long-range program:

"... shall be directed toward the best use of renewable natural resources...taking into consideration, where appropriate, such uses as farming, grazing, timber supply, forest, parks, outdoor recreation, potable water supplies for urban and rural areas, water for agriculture, minimal flow, and industrial uses, watershed stabilization, control of soil erosion, retardation of water run-off, flood prevention and control, reservoirs and other water storage, restriction of developments of flood plains, protection of open space and scenery, preservation of natural beauty, protection of fish and wildlife, preservation of wilderness areas and wild rivers, the prevention or reduction of sedimentation and other pollution in rivers and other waters, and such location of highways, schools, housing developments, industries, airports and other facilities and structures as will fit the needs of the state and be consistent with the best uses of the renewable natural resources of the state."

**How's that for a to-do list?** Obviously, with so much to take into consideration, coordination with other resource programs is critically important.



### Irrigation

- Irrigate at night to reduce evaporation losses
- Don't irrigate when it's windy
- Install more efficient systems such as drip irrigation
- Maintain irrigation equipment (repair leaks) for better efficiency

## SUMMERTIME TIPS

### Landscaping

- Mulch to retain water, suppress weeds and add nutrients for plants
- Set your mower higher to strengthen grass roots, and to keep more moisture in the soil
- Be sure to thoroughly water newly planted tree and shrub seedlings

### Horses & Livestock



- Graze pastures no lower than 3-4"
- Mow and drag pastures after grazing
- Check water troughs every week for mosquito larvae
- Plan now for mud-free winter confinement areas

Call us at (360) 452-1912 ext. 5 or visit our website at <http://clallam.scc.wa.gov/> for more tips & free technical assistance

### The Farmland Connection

"The Farmland Connection" is an information exchange for people who need farmland and people who have farmland to sell or lease. If you are looking for land to farm, or if you have farmland you would like to see farmed, please call Clea Rome with the Conservation District at (360) 452-1912 x 112, or Bob Caldwell with Friends of the Fields at (360) 681-0169 to get connected!



## ~CCD UPCOMING GRANT FUNDING~

### Centennial Clean Water Fund from the Department of Ecology:

- **Dungeness Comprehensive Water Quality Study**

The goal of this two-year grant is to conduct an assessment of the estuarine area between Meadowbrook and Cassalery Creeks in the Lower Dungeness Watershed. The result will be a water-quality plan with a prioritized list of actions for reducing contamination, solutions to the repeated flooding of the area, and strategies for the restoration of stream and estuarine habitat.

- **Countywide Farm Planning**

The goal of this three-year project is to protect and improve water quality throughout Clallam County by providing technical and financial assistance to landowners for implementing Best Management Practices on farms. District staff will work on a voluntary basis with landowners to help them develop farm plans that conserve natural resources and promote livestock health and farm profitability. We will also conduct BMP workshops, and participate in water quality education programs in local schools.

### Regional Geographic Initiative Grant from the EPA

This one-year grant will involve development of new procedures for County Department of Community Development permit applicants to encourage use of alternative stormwater management practices and low-impact development techniques on building sites.

## The What and Why of Irrigation Ditch Piping

Four irrigation districts and three companies deliver Dungeness River water to nearly 6,000 acres of land in the Sequim-Dungeness Valley from April 15 to September 15 each year. The water flows through a network of about 135 miles of open ditches and 38 miles of pipelines.

The current ratio of open irrigation ditch to pipeline miles is nearly 4:1. However, a substantial amount of this piping has occurred within the past five years. Much of the impetus for piping open irrigation ditches can be traced to declining salmon stocks and the listing of three Dungeness River salmonids under the Endangered Species Act. Conserving irrigation water in order to maintain flows in the Dungeness River is recognized as the single most important action that can be taken to improve habitat for these fish.

In 1999, a comprehensive plan for conserving water was prepared for the association of irrigation districts and companies. This plan was followed by an environmental impact statement (EIS). The EIS acknowledged the proposed water conservation measures would adversely impact small streams, wetlands, plants, and the shallow aquifer that have artificially developed over the past century. However, it

concluded that impacts to these artificial hydrologic conditions are acceptable trade-offs for keeping more water in the Dungeness River. The irrigation water users association is in the final stages of negotiations with federal agencies on a management plan that will formally address impacts to listed species, as well as water quality.



The bottom line is the irrigation districts and companies are under considerable pressure to conserve every bit of Dungeness River water possible, as well as keeping it as clean as possible. And, Clallam Conservation District has committed to help.

## CALENDER OF EVENTS

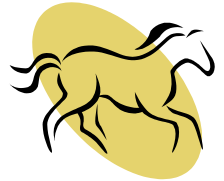
**Natural Landscaping Course** - The Conservation District in conjunction with Peninsula College will be offering a natural landscaping course again this fall.

Check Peninsula College's catalog for more information on course dates, fees and registration.

**Native Plant Field Workshops** - The Conservation District will be leading native plant workshops at the Dungeness Recreation Area in late September. Please call (360) 452-1912 ext. 5 for more information.

### Horse and Livestock Workshop

The Conservation District will be holding a workshop on August 30th from 6-9 pm at Robin Hill Farm Park. This workshop will provide horse and livestock owners with tips on managing pastures, preventing mud, and utilizing manure. Participants will learn techniques to keep their animals' land healthy and productive. Please call (360) 452-1912 ext. 109 to register for this workshop.



The District is currently assisting with the planning and design of a very large piping project that will result in a water savings of over six (6) cubic feet per second of Dungeness River water. The project will encompass combining the Cline Irrigation District and Clallam Ditch Company main canals into a single pipeline. Currently the two open canals cross parallel one another and cross in four places. As part of the project, the entire Cline main canal will be piped as will several smaller laterals. This will nearly eliminate conveyance losses, wasted tailwater at the end of the system and delivery of contaminated water to Dungeness Bay. In addition, many irrigators will be able to irrigate without pumps, thus conserving energy.

The District is also assisting the Sequim Prairie Tri Irrigation Association with the construction of a small reservoir in the Port Williams area. That project will save nearly three (3) cubic feet per second of Dungeness River water and eliminate five tailwater ditches.

State and federal grants will fund this project. Funding partners are the Department of Ecology, Environmental Protection Agency (through the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe), and the Washington Conservation Commission. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service is contributing half the engineering assistance required for design of the project.

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If you are interested in becoming a newsletter sponsor, for \$50 per year your name or the name of your business will be printed four times in the sponsor section of the newsletter, or for \$100 per year, your company business card will also be printed once a year.

The Conservation News is published quarterly and is currently reaching over 1,700 mailboxes and is available for review on our website. Your support will help us reach more people interested in getting involved in local conservation efforts.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please call (360) 452-1912 ext. 5.



### Want to help us save a tree???

Our newsletter is available in email format, so if you would like to help us conserve resources give us a call at (360) 452-1912 ext. 5 or send an email to [ccd-info@wa.nacdnet.org](mailto:ccd-info@wa.nacdnet.org) to start receiving the electronic version of our newsletter.

Clallam Conservation District is a subdivision of state government created to promote the stewardship and conservation of natural resources in Clallam County. Public meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 3:00 p.m. at the Clallam County Courthouse.

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Long Range Plan Updates  
 Car Washing Tips  
 Upcoming Events  
 Irrigation Piping Facts  
 CREP Program  
 New Grant Funding for CCD  
 Farmland Connection  
 Rain Barrel Wrap-up

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